(ii) No special financial incentives is provided to the paper industry for use of bamboo as a raw material for paper making, or to SSI units for manufacture of items based on bamboo. Cash incentive on f.o.b. value is extended for export of handicrafts, including those made of bamboo.

(c) and (d) Sales-cum-study teams had visited U.S.A., Canada, West Germany, France, Belgium and U.K. to study market potential and to explore export opportunities for handicrafts, including those made of bamboo.

Price implementation of Anti-T.B. Drugs

1643. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry reduced the prices of certain leading packs of anti-TB medicines both based on single ingredient as well as in combination;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these medicines are still sold at the old prices;

(c) what are the names of anti-TB formulations for which prices were reduced during the last one year and at what prices each is being sold at present;

(d) whether it is also a fact that his Department is fully aware of non-implementation of notified prices and over-charging the poor TB patients; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to make these medicines available at fixed prices?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) to (c) Consequent upon reduction in the price of bulk drug Rifampicin from Rs. 3000/- kg. to Rs. 2500/ kg., w.e.f. 28.9.1988 prices of various formulations based on Rifampicin including its combination formulations with INH were also reduced. With the shifting of Rifampicin bulk drug from Schedule—I of DPCO, 1987, to Scheduled—II on 18.1.1989, revised ceiling prices have been notified for these formulations on 12th April, 1989 with 100 per cent MAPE for Rifampicin plain formulations and 75 per cent for combination of Rifampicin and INH. The required details in respect of Ceiling price are given in the statement at annexure—I. [*See* Appendix CL, Annexure No. 74].

(d) and (e) It is incumbent upon the manufacturers to implement the prices fixed by the Government within 15 days. This has also been emphasised upon all State Governments through a letter addressed to all the Chief Ministers. The attention of the manufacturers has also been drawn to the penal provisions of the DPCO, 1987 through their concerned Industry Associations vide letter dated 16.4.1989 a copy of which is given in the statement below.

Statement

By Registered Post

L. K. MALHOTRA
Director (P I)

No. 9(2)/89-P I-II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

DEPTT. OF CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS

OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (P I)

Dated 24th April, 1989

To

All Industry Associations

Sub: DPCO, 1987 fixation/revision of Prices representation under Para 24 regarding—

Dear Sirs,

I am constrained to bring to your notice that as per the information

received by this Department from various sources and documents, the prices fixed for various scheduled formulations under DPCO are not being observed by the formulators concerned, in a number of cases. In this connection I reproduce some provisions of DPCO, 1987 which are relevant to the matter being raised in this letter:—

"16(3) Every manufacturer or importer shall give effect to the price of a bulk drug or formulation, as the case may be, as fixed by the Government from time to time, within fifteen days from the receipt by such manufacturer or importer of the communication in this behalf from the Government and issue a supplementary price list in this regard to the dealers, State Drug Controllers and the Government and indicate necessary reference to such price fixation."

"24. xx xx xx

Provided that pending a decision by the Government on the application submitted under the above paragraph, no manufacturer, importer or distributor as the case may be, shall sell a bulk drug or formulation as the case may be, at a price exceeding the price fixed by the Government, of which a review has been applied for."

"15. POWER TO RECOVER DUES—Notwithstanding anything contained in this Order, the Government may, if it considers necessary, by notice, require the manufacturers, importers or distributors, as the case may be, to deposit the amount accrued due to charging of prices higher than those fixed or notified by the Government as per the provisions of this order."

"26. PENALTIES—Any contravention of any of the provisions of this order shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1055)."

2. In the above background, it is requested that the contents of this letter be brought to the notice of the members of your Association and it may please be impressed upon them to ensure compliance with the provisions of DPCO and in particular the prices fixed by the Government and do not make themselves liable to penal actions since the prices fixed by the Government become effective within 15 days of the receipt of Government's Price Fixation Order.

3. I also wish to inform you that we are taking steps to expedite the disposal of review cases so that the legitimate grievances of the Company concerned are taken care of, but, as stated above, this is without prejudice to their obligation for implementing the prices from the due date.

4. The receipt of this letter may please be acknowledged and the action taken in this regard intimated to this Department at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

(L. K. Malhotra)

Director (P I)

Tel. No. 382882

Appointment of Committee on D.A. for public enterprises

@1643-A. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government appointed a Committee headed by Shri R. B. Mishra to go into dearness allowance system in the public sector enterprises some time back;

(b) whether the Committee has since submitted its report; and

(c) if so, what are the salient features of the report, and action taken thereon?

@Previously Unstarred Question 1040 transferred from the 4th May, 1989.